

Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 29

OCTOBER, 1979

NUMBER 8

Reversing the Arms Race

From 1959, when the Second General Synod said that a "drastic reduction in the present level of national armaments is imperative," to 1979, when the Twelfth General Synod called for public support of the Salt II agreements, the United Church of Christ has urged the reversing of the arms race and setting in high priority on the search for peace.

After considerable discussion in congregations, annual conference meetings, and open hearings and floor debate, the Twelfth General Synod affirmed its belief that it is still possible for the United States to take the lead in turning nations toward peaceful solutions of the world's tensions.

Now you and the members of your congregation can obtain from the UCC Office for Church in Society an extensive list of printed and audio-visual resources to help you study this issue.

Address your request to:

United Church of Christ
Office for Church in Society
110 Maryland Avenue NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

UCBWM Office In Turkey Bombed

The central office of the United Church of Christ Board for World Ministries in Istanbul, Turkey was bombed July 24 by members of a leftist revolutionary group.

No mission agency personnel were injured and little property damage was done, according to Dr. David M. Stowe, executive vice president of the overseas agency.

The attack occurred, UCBWM staff learned, when several masked young men entered the offices, told American and Turkish employees they would not be harmed and then herded them to another floor. The bomb, placed under a desk, exploded five minutes later.

In a phone call to missionary Melvin Whittier in Istanbul, it was learned that the intruders had told the Istanbul staff that they had "nothing against you." After

(Contd. on page 2)



REV. WILSON WELCH

Fisk Names Director of Race Relations Institute

Rev. Wilson Q. Welch, professor of religion and philosophy at Fisk University in Nashville, TN., has been named acting director of the recently re-established Fisk Race Relations Institute, according to Walter J. Leonard, president of Fisk.

The Institute, which was founded by Charles S. Johnson in the 1940's and existed at Fisk until the late 1950's, served as an annual meeting ground for labor, political, business and education leaders to discuss programs and plans for improving the racial climates in America. The United Church of Christ Board of Homeland Ministries recently provided funds for the re-establishment of the Institute at Fisk. Fisk will receive \$50,000 this year and \$100,000 over the next two, the latter to be matched by Fisk, to endow the institute.

President Leonard, commenting on the appointment, said, "Wilson Welch has demonstrated his commitment to the improvement of this country's racial climate and devotion to the ideal of an integrated, unified society throughout his life. I cannot think of a more appropriate

(Contd. on page 4)

Conference Minister Search Underway

Because of the resignation and retirement in 1980 of the Rev. Dr. William J. Andes, the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference has appointed a "Conference Minister Search Committee."

The committee consists of the following members: Mrs. W. Walter Hall, Chairperson; Mrs. Audrey Livingston, Rev. Dr. David L. Beebe, Mr. Franklin Thomas, Rev. John D. Schofield, Rev. James T. McAdams, Ms. Dorothy DeVillars, Rev. James Eaton, Mrs. J. T. Cox, Mr. Milton Hurst, Ms. Mary C. Marshall, Ms. Elizabeth Green and Rev. Henry W. Tuttle, Ex-officio. Rev. Norman Jackson, Executive Associate to the President, UCC, will be assisting.

This committee has met, organized, and will be meeting on a monthly basis. The position has been advertised and a Conference Profile and Job Description will be available in October. The Southeast Conference is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. Deadline for the receipt of applications and recommendations is **December 15, 1979.**

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Mrs. W. Walter Hall
P. O. Box 167
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578
(615) 277-3193

Have you Observed 'Access Sunday'?

The Healing Community, a coalition of concerned individuals that is headed by UCC minister, Dr. Harold H. Wilke, has proposed to more than two-dozen religious groups and denominational agencies and units in the United States and to several more such agencies abroad, the holding of an "Access Sunday" by their constituent congregations to dramatize the presence, the potential, and the needs of

(Contd. on page 4)

Using 'UCC Movers'

There's no doubt about it: Americans are a people on the move! Following jobs, following family, following the sun, following the hope of a better future, one out of every five Americans moves each year!

What has the effect of such mobility been on our congregations? Most of us in the United Church of Christ are aware, at least vaguely aware, that our membership nationally has shown a downward trend over the past years. The good news seems to be that this trend is slowing down.

A recent study, *Understanding Church Growth and Decline: 1950-1978*, notes that "denominational membership trends are more the result of failure of recruitment of new members than of the dropping out of existing members."

Members are added to our congregations primarily by confirmation, confession of faith, and transfer. Since as many new members are added to UCC congregations by transfer as by confirmation and confession of faith combined, it is of utmost importance to keep track of members who are on the move!

Over the past few years, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the UCC Conferences have sought to conserve members who move from one community to another by a program of Church Membership Exchange.

Now a streamlined version of Church Membership Exchange is ready for operation. Here's how it works: Pastors, or laypersons made responsible for the task, are asked to fill out a card, that is contained in the *UCC Desk Calendar and Plan Book* each time a member moves. The card is sent to UCBHM, which will acknowledge the card and forward it to a local congregation in the new community. The UCBHM will process the cards and carefully track the flow of persons, following up on a sample of those names to measure the effectiveness of the program.

What's the name of the newly revised program? Why, "UCC MOVERS," naturally!

intend to continue to work with their Turkish friends in a ministry of service, understanding and reconciliation."

The United Church Board for World Ministries and its predecessor agencies have worked in Turkey for 160 years. The Near East mission is responsible for schools in Izmir, Tarsus and Uskudar and also for the Redhouse Press, mission publishing house that is housed in the Bible House headquarters.



Celebration honoring Rev. and Mrs. Homer McEwen

UPLANDS SUNDAY REPORT

Uplands Retirement Center and Wharton Nursing Home express sincere appreciation to the Southeast Conference churches for their participation in "Uplands Sunday," 1979. A total of \$4,803.26 has been received to date from the following churches:

Antioch Congregational Church, Andalusia, AL.
Barton Chapel, Robbins, TN.
Blackwood UCC, Headland, AL.
Brookmeade UCC, Nashville, TN.
Button Gwinnett UCC, Lilburn, GA.

Church of the Savior, Knoxville, TN.
Community UCC, Pleasant Hill, TN.
Corinth Christian, Wadley, AL.
East Alabama Association, Roanoke, AL.

Elder Adult Sunday School Class, Dadeville, AL.

Fairfield Glade Community Church and Fairfield Glade Baptist Church, Fairfield Glade, TN.

First UCC, Crossville, TN.
First UCC, Belvidere, TN.
Glenmary UCC, Sunburst, TN.
Hillside Christian, LaGrange, GA.
Pilgrim UCC, Chattanooga, TN.
Pilgrim UCC, Birmingham, AL.
Union UCC, Tougaloo, MS.

If your church contributed but is not listed, please put out a tracer. Also, let Uplands know so they may again check their records.

Uplands is also grateful to the Southeast Conference for voting at their annual meeting to hold Uplands Sunday again in 1980. The constantly increasing number of older people requires an ever-expanding service to those in their declining years.

McEwens Receive Tribute

A mass of community and civic-oriented persons gathered at the Garden Room in Atlanta to honor First Congregational Church's Rev. Homer C. McEwen for his years of service and contribution to the black community of Atlanta and the nation.

Nearly 400 people packed the room to tribute Rev. and Mrs. McEwen for his 32 years of dedication to the community and the church in celebration of his recent retirement.

After a slide presentation, that was illustrative of the different areas of the life of the Aberdeen, MS. native, honorary tributes were offered by such notables as Grant Shockley of ITC, representatives of the United Church of Christ, Dr. Elton Harrison of Dillard University, and representatives of Mayor Maynard Jackson and Georgia Governor George Busbee.

The first minister to retire from First Congregational Church, Rev. McEwen said he had "walked with tremendous saints" since he came to Atlanta in 1947 and that his "short tenure" of 32 years serving First Congregational has been most gracious.

UCBWM Office . . .

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the incident, Mr. Whitler said, a banner was discovered which read, "Imperialist monopoly is responsible for poverty, unemployment and high costs." Several other incidents of similar nature took place in Istanbul that day, he said.

Dr. Stowe's statement, issued following the incident, said that "missionaries

Ready for The Spirit!

President Avery D. Post, in his closing statement to the 703 delegates and numerous visitors attending General Synod Twelve, noted: "This beloved United Church of ours is a church ready for the Holy Spirit!"

"Ready for the Spirit!" is the appropriate title for the new thirteen-minute filmstrip that will help you and the members of your congregation to catch the enthusiasm and power that permeated the life and work of the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

"Ready for the Spirit!" is now available from the UCC Office for Audio-Visuals, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19102. The price for the filmstrip and record is \$15.00 per copy.

Ala-Tenn Youth Meet

Some 25 youth and adult advisors of the Alabama-Tennessee Association met at Huntsville United Church on August 18, 1979 to fellowship and make plans for Association-wide youth activities for the 1979-80 program year. Led by Youth Coordinator Steve Gray, those present represented five Association churches: Birmingham Pilgrim, Belvidere United, Huntsville United, Cullman St. John's and Nashville Brookmeade.

In addition to enjoying a lunch together, hosted by the Huntsville church, and conducting organizational and financial business, the following programs and dates were outlined:

Nov. 9-11 — Pop-in at Huntsville UCC
Jan 20 — Fellowship Day at Belvidere UCC

Feb. 29-Mar 1 — Pop-In at Chattanooga Pilgrim UCC

June 6-8 — Southeast Conference Annual Meeting

June 27-29 — Pop-In at Cullman, AL. St. John's

It looks like a busy year!

The Real Harvest

The real crop of our country is people, the people who grew up here and live here, the people who move here and stay here, the people who grew up here and leave to make their contribution to other, mostly urban, communities. The real role of our country is not to produce the best possible wheat, cattle, and milk — but more important, to produce the best people. That is about all that is going to count in the long run.

A VILLAGE PASTOR



Moderator Milton Hurst of the Southeast Conference presents the symbol of office to Moderator Nathaneal Guptill as President Post looks on.

Synod Rich Experience

"Because we are one people" was the title of the songbook at the 12th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, held in Indianapolis, IND., June 22-26. It was an appropriate title: for I think that the most significant thing that happened at GS12 was the uniting of so many diverse peoples: handicapped, aged, Pacific Islanders, Asian Americans, men, women, black, white, Indian Americans, Hispanics, lepers, conservatives, liberals, gays, and a whole host of others finding their meaning to one another in the Christian faith.

It was noticeable that "inter-racial" no longer means for us only "black or white," but "multi-racial." And in the future we will have interpreters for non-English-speaking delegates. We are multi-lingual! As our statement of faith says, "God calls us into the Church . . . binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races."

The Synod took several major steps: we endorsed "New Initiatives in Church Development" (a major funding program) as well as continued conversations with the Disciples of Christ. We voted to establish a four-year task-force to deepen and broaden our study of human sexuality and Christian faith. And we addressed ourselves to major social issues such as human rights, the death penalty, the fuel crisis, rural America, and the call for frugal life-styles.

For me, the high-light of the Synod was a

Southeast Conference Visible At General Synod

The Southeast Conference was definitely visible at the Twelfth General Synod held June 22-26 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In addition to Mr. Milton Hurst from Talladega, AL. who served as Moderator of the General Synod, Southeast Conference delegates attending were Harold N. Auler, David L. Beebe and Phemie Young. Conference Staff W. J. Andes and Warren Blankenhorn attended as Associate Delegates.

Joining them were a number of other people, including four youth from the Talladega Church — Annette Gray, Nannette Gooden, Darryl Montgomery, Emmette Gray; Mrs. Mary Marshall, John Schofield, Marvin Morgan, President Joseph N. Gayles of Talladega College, President George A. Owens of Tougaloo College, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Frey and family, Rev. and Mrs. Randall Gehres and family and Joyce Myers.

Delegate Franklin Thomas could not attend due to illness in his family.

prayer by Arthur Gray, father of black United Church involvement. His prayer "turned back the layers of my life." And then the next morning he was found in his room, having quietly passed. We were bound in gratitude for his life.

It was a rich experience to work and worship with this variegated people, of whom we may truly say "Out of many one."

DR. DAVID BEEBE
Conference Delegate



Dr. Easton and Midway members watch as the church mortgage burns.

Midway Church Burns Mortgage

With joy and thanksgiving the mortgage on Midway Congregational Church, UCC sanctuary was burned at a worship service on Sunday, July 29, 1979. A capacity crowd of friends and members observed Dr. James A. Eaton, the church's pastor, and six members of church auxiliaries express appreciation and touch their candles to the corners of the mortgage in the ceremonial bowl.

This act marked the fulfillment of a dream of a new building which began in 1946, inspired during the ministry of the late Rev. A. C. Curtright. The old building, completed in 1882, had served well beyond its time. There was a need for an edifice which would lend itself more effectively and efficiently to the needs of the day. Eventually, in 1963, the dream became reality with a loan of \$11,135.00 from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

Prior to the ceremony, Dr. Percel O. Alston, a former minister of the church and now associated with the United Church Board, Division of Evangelism, delivered the sermon. As the mortgage became ashes, Dr. Eaton commended the members in, what is now, his 13th year as minister.

The happy day ended with dinner in the Annex for the guests from California and many states along the east coast. Dr. W. J. Andes, Conference Minister, Rev. Neil Mosley and 17 members of the newly formed Amistad Congregational Church, Jacksonville, Florida, members from First Church, Savannah, were also present for the occasion as were members of local area churches of all denominations.

N.C.C. President Regrets Resignation

The Rev. M. William Howard, president of the National Council of Churches, expressed his regret at U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young's resignation in an interview on August 16.

Emphasizing that he was speaking as an individual, not for the National Council, Howard said, "It would appear that Ambassador Young's having to resign over this matter is out of proportion to the historic contribution he has made toward improving relationships with nations for the USA at the United Nations."

"Ambassador Young should be applauded for the courageous manner in which he has chosen to resign, and for the clarity he has given to the inadequacy of US foreign policy in the Mideast, particularly as it relates to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Perhaps this will be Ambassador Young's legacy."

Dr. William Tuttle Dies

The Rev. Dr. William N. Tuttle, the former Superintendent of the Florida Conference of Congregational Christian Churches from 1944-57, passed away on August 22, 1979.

Born in 1891, Dr. Tuttle graduated from Grinnell College and Union Theological Seminary. He was ordained into the Christian Ministry in May of 1917. Prior to becoming Superintendent of the Florida Conference, he rode circuit in North Dakota and he held pastorates in Iowa, Illinois and New York.

He is survived by his wife and two sons, one of which is the Rev. Henry Tuttle, pastor of Birmingham Pilgrim UCC and Moderator of the Southeast Conference.

Fisk Names . . .

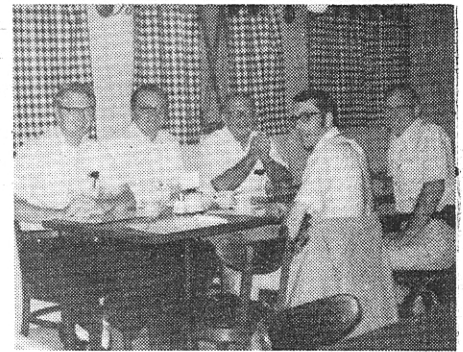
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person to head up this important institute."

Rev. Welch, who retired from full-time teaching duties this year after 33 years with Fisk, is a graduate of Livingstone College and Union Theological Seminary. After teaching at Livingston and working with the National Council of Churches, he came to Fisk where, in 1950, he became a tenured member of the faculty.

In addition to his academic duties, Welch served as Director of the Honors Program and as Dean of the Chapel. Presently he is serving as the liaison between Fisk and the Commission of Higher Education of the United Church of Christ.

A past Moderator of the Ala-Tenn Association, Rev. Welch has served as the pastor of Howard Congregational Church, UCC in Nashville for the past ten years.



Eastern Cluster members (l-r): Rev. Roy Baine, Rev. Jim McAdams, Rev. Don Scovill, Rev. Steve Voelker and Rev. Fred Morris.

EASTERN CLUSTER MEETS

The Eastern Cluster of the East Alabama Association, meets the fourth Saturday of every month for a breakfast meeting at Day's Inn in LaGrange, GA. Members of the Eastern Cluster are: Rev. Jim McAdams, Hillside Christian Church of LaGrange; Rev. Fred Morris, Bethany (Lime) in Roanoke, AL.; Rev. Steve Voelker, Jones Chapel Congregational Christian of Woodbury; Rev. Roy Baine, United Congregational Christian Church of LaGrange; and Rev. Donald Scoville, Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church of Pine Mountain.

The cluster is looking forward to a more effective and extensive ministry in the LaGrange area, and greater participation in Association and Conference activities.

Access Sunday . . .

(Contd. from page 1)

handicapped people in their midst. If your congregation has not yet observed Access Sunday, you may want to schedule such an occasion this autumn.

Access Sunday is a time for churches to take a new look at the contributions of the handicapped, and a time to validate the life and witness of handicapped persons in the Christian Community. It is a time to remind the congregation that the church's unity includes both the disabled and the able, and it is a time to demonstrate anew the wholeness of the Family of God. Access Sunday is a time to affirm the continuing need for institutional care where it is necessary, and also it is a time to call for congregational acceptance of the handicapped within the mainstream of church life. Access Sunday is an appropriate time to begin to make structural changes in your church building so that all may easily use the facilities.

Suggestions for observing Access Sunday are available from the Healing Community, 139 Walworth Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606.

Funeral Services Observed

Funeral services were conducted for Mr. O. f. Richter on August 2, 1979 from St. John's United Church in Cullman, Alabama. Mr. Richter passed away in his sleep sometime during the night of July 30. He was 87 years of age. His son, Hubert Richter, is a former moderator of the Southeast Conference.

Miss Nettie E. Pitcock of Atlanta died on July 29, 1979. She had made her home with her niece, Miss Emilie Pitcock, former Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry of the Southeast Conference.

Funeral services were held in Glasgow, KY. with burial in Glasgow Municipal Cenetery. A memorial service was held Saturday, August 4 at Central Congregational Church in Atlanta. Rev. William T. Scott Jr. and the Rev. Floyd Carmack officiated.

Mrs. Gladys Keener, age 82, died at her home on June 28. She was the wife of the late Rev. John W. Keener, a United Church of Christ minister. Her husband served as Interim Minister at Belvidere United Church of Christ for several years after his retirement from churches in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kansas and Illinois. Mrs. Keener was a member of the Belvidere United Church of Christ.

Services were conducted in Tullahoma. Burial was in Rose Hill Memorial Gardens.

The Southeast News

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

Publication Number 504480

Published monthly October and
November; February to July, inclusive;
bi-monthly August-September and
December-January, by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
The United Church of Christ

2676 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30329
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$1.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 29 October, 1979 No. 8

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
P.O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30359



Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, UCC, Pine Mountain, Ga.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE— Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

A church that offers a most unique ministry is Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, UCC in Pine Mountain, Georgia.

Set in the midst of a rural farming community, Oak Grove Church was founded by Rev. Hilliard Elder in 1899. When the original church structure sustained serious wind damage, the present sanctuary was constructed in 1914. The church at that time had over 200 active members. Successive additions have been made to the church plant. A parsonage was built in the 1940's. Sunday School rooms and a pastor's study were added to the front and back of the sanctuary in the 1950's and an educational wing was completed in the early 1970's.

Over the years the church has enjoyed the leadership of 18 regular and interim ministers and has supported a full time ministry since the early 1950's. In addition to worship activities, the church supports

active women's, men's, and youth groups.

But the most unique aspect of Oak Grove's ministry is its annual Oak Grove Arts and Crafts Fair, which this year attracted between 10,000 and 15,000 people, which is located on a specially designated plot of land near the church and which is planned, run and staffed by members of the Oak Grove Church.

Proceeds from the Fair go to the Oak Grove Foundation, which provides help for needy families and scholarship aid for ministers and laypersons who are studying in the area of Christian Education. Help from the Foundation has been extended to many ministers and lay persons throughout the Southeast Conference.

Rev. Donald Scovill serves as the church's pastor.



Oak Grove members a' cookin' for this year's Oak Grove Arts and Crafts Fair.

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

POSTAGE DUE 10

On September 13, 1979 Rev. and Mrs. Floyd Carmack celebrated thirteen years of ministry at Bonanza United Church of Christ, Jonesboro, GA. Rev. Carmack is the founding pastor of Bonanza, a new church start, which first opened its doors in 1966.

Rev. Alton Nixon was installed by the East Alabama Association as pastor of Huguley Congregational-Christian Church at a 3:00 p.m. service on Sunday, September 16, 1979.

A 25 minute presentation, depicting the story of Uplands Retirement Center, its facilities and its people, is now available for use. The presentation consists of forty-seven 35MM slides and a descriptive script. The presentation may be reserved by contacting the Southeast Conference Office.

Rev. Arnold Slater, minister emeritus of Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Chattanooga, TN. was honored on September 2, 1979 at the Chickamauga Fly and Bait Casting Club where he has acted as volunteer minister for the past seven years.

Fred and Marion Cameron, who were familiar faces in the activities of the Southeast Conference, have moved to: 9385 Headlands Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060.

The 170th Annual Meeting of the United Church Board for World Ministries will be held November 11-14, 1979 in Denver, Colorado.

Pleasant Hill, TN. was the scene of a "wheelchair parade" on July 4 and consisted of some 23 chairs which were gaily decorated. Some participants remarked that it had been months since they had been out of doors.

Heather Beebe, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. David Beebe, pastor of Chattanooga Pilgrim UCC, won the silver medal in her class and age for "Highland Dancing" at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina.

An "All Night Lock-In" was held by the young people of the Lanett-Phenix City churches in July at the Columbus, GA. YMCA. Approximately 50 people were "locked-in."

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries began a Family Life Issues

Group Newsletter, a quarterly publication on family issues. Nanette M. Roberts is the Editor. Write her at 287 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010 if you have articles, news items, questions or reports on programs.

Rev. Floyd Carmack represented the Southeast Conference at the New Church Development Event held July 16-20, 1979 at Deering, N.H.

Rev. Don Scovill, pastor of Pine Mountain, GA. UCC was instrumental in helping to start an ecumenical minister's group in his area. Participating are the ministers from the community's Methodist and two Baptist churches.

During the summer Pleasant Hill Community Church held a "Saturday Morning Market" in which consumers selected what they could use from the surplus of the gardens of local people in the area. Those who could not cultivate gardens took what they could use and left "offerings" in a box marked "World Hunger Fund." Contributions totalled more than \$500.

Eugene and Margaret Keen, pastor and wife at Huntsville United Church, hosted a cookout for members and prospective members at their home in Huntsville. In addition, they had an adult covered dish dinner at their home. The Church has given \$815 toward their OCWM goal of \$1325 and installed air-conditioning in the remainder of the church building and owe only \$600 toward that bill of approximately \$2400.

On September 8th Hillside Christian Church, LaGrange, GA. held a dinner, the proceeds of which will go toward a van to assist wheelchair patients.

"Open My Eyes," a story in film about The Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Jamshed, India is available through UCBWM, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027.

Mr. Stanton Barrett was ordained into the Christian ministry at Central UCC, Atlanta, GA on August 26, 1979 by the Georgia-South Carolina Association. Mr. Barrett was a graduate of Florida State University and Candler School of Theology.

Rev. and Mrs. Harold Auler, former pastor and wife of Lanett UCC, Lanett, AL. have accepted the call to Pleasant Ridge Congregational-Christian, UCC in Ramseur, N.C. The Aulers new address is: Route 1, Box 149, Ramseur, N.C. 27316.

Rev. Lee and Ann Gables of Pleasant Hill, TN. are recorders of history, tape recording valuable information about the 22-year history of the UCC and about significant developments in its predecessor denominations stored in the memories of people now retired and living in Pleasant Hill. The tapes will be placed in the Archival Center in Lancaster, PA.

The United Church of Christ was one of a number of denominations represented at the Fourth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect held in Los Angeles, Ca. October 7-10, 1979.

Some 16 young people from First UCC Church in Hollywood, FL. held a work camp at Uplands and Wharton Nursing Home this past summer. A considerable amount of work was accomplished which was greatly appreciated by the residents of Uplands.

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1980 (FEB. 1980 THRU
DEC 1980-JAN. 1981)

Subscription rate: \$2.00

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